

Message

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Sent: 2/26/2018 4:49:42 PM
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Subject: Status Update Requested - Summary of Navy/Grumman Plume Roundtable
Attachments: 02.26.18_NG.Plume.Roundtable.Status.Update.pdf

Congressman Suozzi asked me to share the following email on his behalf, requesting a status update on the Navy/Grumman Plume Conference Summary email sent to all parties on May 18, 2017 and December 11, 2017.

My office is organizing a one year follow up roundtable to build on the success and headway everyone has made in the last year. We have identified **May 4th as a potential date for this year's roundtable**. Cindy Rogers will follow up with confirmation of the date and any additional details.

In order to have another fruitful meeting, I would like all parties to address the specific questions raised below and identify new or emerging issues that should be addressed. Your responses will be critical in setting the agenda for the roundtable.

Also, there have been some major developments since the December email:

- Governor Cuomo announced the New York State budget will include \$150 million to clean up and contain the Navy-Grumman plume.
- The Department of Justice, at the urging of the Navy and my office, announced an upfront payment of \$6 million to the Bethpage Water District for upgrades to plant 6.

Below is an email my office circulated following the roundtable, with color coded updates regarding all of the stakeholders. Please review and provide a status update, on behalf of your organization, where requested.

Please let us know what we may do to assist and expedite with any of the items below. Updates provided to my office, since the December 11 email, are highlighted in yellow.

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Status Update Requested for Point(s)</u>
<i>DEC</i>	1, 2
<i>Northrop Grumman</i>	3, 6
<u>Navy</u>	6
<u>Department of Health</u>	6, 8
<u>South Farmingdale Water District and Massapequa Water</u>	9

I want to thank everyone for attending the Navy/Grumman Plume Roundtable last week. As a newcomer to this issue, I found the discussion to be very informative. I came away knowing that this issue is complex, and that while a DEC Record of Decision is guiding the remediation efforts, we can all work together to see that the remedy is effectuated as quickly and effectively as possible. I also understand that Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Basil Segos have directed DEC to make the remediation of this site a high priority. Staff changes have been made and DEC is now looking at the problem with "fresh eyes". To this end, the DEC has commissioned a study of alternative remediation options that should be completed later this year. That document will provide guidance on whether further remediation efforts are necessary, and if so, what they should include.

Bethpage Water District deserves a lot of credit for the monumental work that they are doing to make sure that their drinking water is safe. They are a small entity and they do a fantastic job of protecting the public. I hope we will all do what we can to lessen the financial burden they undertake in fulfilling their mission and to assist them as they continue to provide safe, drinkable water to all Bethpage residents.

While the DEC, Navy and Northrop Grumman are primarily responsible for the remediation, I think there are steps we can take to assist them, the Water Districts and the public. These steps include the following:

1. DEC will complete Phase II of the HDR study which will take a more in-depth look at how to contain and clean up groundwater contamination from the Navy/Grumman Plume. The study will build upon an August 2016 report and will involve water testing, fieldwork and computer modeling. It will look at salt water intrusion, recharging of treated water and other issues. The earlier study concluded that fully containing and removing the contamination could cost between \$268 million and \$587 million and would require treatment for up to 100 years.
 - DEC expects the study, including recommendations for future remedial actions to be completed this fall.
 - DEC, please provide an update on the status of the study which was originally scheduled to be "completed this fall," as noted above, and the availability of the study for all stakeholders.
2. DEC is conducting a Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Assessment to quantify the damages to groundwater resources. The DEC will then bring a claim against the responsible parties (Navy and Northrop Grumman) to fund projects to restore and protect groundwater on Long Island. The NRD assessment is in addition to ongoing site remediation.
 - DEC expects to have this assessment completed by the end of 2017.
 - DEC, please provide an update on the status of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment, which was originally scheduled to be "completed by the end of 2017," as noted above.
3. Northrop Grumman is working on obtaining permits for remediation of the Bethpage Community Park. The offsite groundwater portion of the remedy includes three extraction wells. Two wells have been installed; the third is under construction. Northrop Grumman is also working to obtain permission from property owners to install pipelines to connect the wells to the treatment facility.
 - In about four to six weeks, Northrop Grumman will submit 95 percent designs to DEC for approval.
 - TOB Supervisor Joseph Saladino offered to expedite the permits.
 - Northrop Grumman, please provide an update on:

- the status of obtaining permits for remediation of the Bethpage Community Park;
 - submission of plans to the DEC, originally anticipated to be “submitted four to six weeks,” as noted above, after the May conference; and
 - Construction of the third well, permission from property owners to install pipelines, and current status of installing pipelines connecting the three extraction wells.
4. As part of the early action regarding the RE108 remediation, the Navy plans to pump contaminated water from the RE108 hot spot area to the GM38 treatment facility. This will require an easement from the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR).
- The Navy has a contact at the LIRR and will reach out to them this week re: necessary easement.
 - Should the Navy meet resistance or delay from the LIRR, Congressman Suozzi offered to serve as a liaison between the Navy and LIRR.
 - Supervisor Saladino will assist with whatever permits are needed.
 - According the Navy’s update, the MTA and LIRR have agreed in principle to grant the easement and the Navy is working with the MTA to acquire the information needed to obtain the easement.
 - The Navy, provided an update on the estimated timing of
 - (a) receipt of the easement; May 2018
 - (b) installation of pipes; September 2018 and
 - (c) initial pumping to the GM38 facility December 2018
5. The Navy realizes that Bethpage Water District’s Plant 6 has been adversely impacted by high levels of groundwater contamination and therefore needs to be upgraded. The United States and the Bethpage Water District have entered into a consent judgement regarding the upgrade wherein the United States provides half of the upgrade costs upfront. Total estimated cost is \$8 million. The Water District commented that it does not have the funds to pay for the remainder and is therefore requesting a 90 percent advance of the estimated cost. This is a legal agreement and the negotiations are between the Water District and Department of Justice.
- Congressmen Suozzi and King will have their offices reach out to DOJ to see about amending the consent judgment to allow payment of 90% of the cost up front.
 - DEC will look into providing a bridge loan to Bethpage Water District for the portion of the cost not paid upfront.
 - Adrienne Esposito suggested seeing whether EFC funding could be used for this purpose.
 - The Navy and Bethpage Water District have confirmed upfront payment of \$6 million from the Judgement Fund for upgrades to Bethpage Water District Plant #6 under the recently amended Consent Judgment. The payment was received on January 23rd and Bethpage Water District will proceed with soliciting bids for the work.

According to the Navy's update, the Bethpage Water District and the Navy have agreed to a temporary dual use of Plant 6 for remediation purposes. The updated plan states that the Navy and Bethpage Water District will continue to work together to ensure that the Navy and Bethpage Water District please provide an update on timing of existing remedial activities and if actual implementation.

6. There was discussion on whether Plant 6 could be used both to remediate groundwater and as a drinking water source. Even though the contaminated water is remediated to meet drinking water standards, the Department of Health does not allow the long-term use of remediation wells as drinking water wells. No dual use of wellheads.
 - Dr. Eisenstein will speak to the state about the possibility of allowing non-concurrent dual use; i.e.: the wellhead could be used for both remediation and drinking water, but not at the same time.
 - The Navy was requested to consider leasing Plant 6 from Bethpage Water District and using it solely for remediation purposes. The Navy explained that this had been explored but was determined unfeasible. The Navy claims that the near term solution of pumping water from RE108 to GM38 can be implemented faster, and will be more effective and efficient.
 - In order to expedite remediation, Congressman Suozzi suggested that the Navy and Northrop Grumman explore the possibility of having the Navy contract (for a fee) with Northrop Grumman to have Northrop Grumman conduct the clean up on their behalf.
 - Dr. Eisenstein, can you please provide an update on allowing non-concurrent dual use?
 - Northrup Grumman and the Navy, can you please update us on the possibility of having the Navy contract with Northrup Grumman to have Northrup Grumman clean up on the Navy's behalf?
7. Bethpage is concerned about the plume being referred to as the "Bethpage Plume". Residents feel it affects property values and would prefer a difference reference.
 - Henceforth, the plume will be **referred to as the Navy/Grumman Plume**.
 - **My office and I now refer to the Plume as the "Navy/Grumman" Plume in all conversations and with the press. We would like to encourage all stakeholders to do the same.**
8. A lot of resources are going into making Bethpage tap water safe to drink; yet the public is skeptical about its drinkability.
 - Dr. Eisenstein offered to have the Department of Health spread the message that the water is safe to drink.
 - Dr. Eisenstein, can you please provide an update on efforts the Department of Health has made to spread the message?
9. As outlined in the Public Water Contingency plan, South Farmingdale Water District and Massapequa Water District should speak to Navy representatives about **future funding** if/when their water supply is likely to be impacted by groundwater contamination.
 - The Navy should confirm if such funding is available
 - Congressman Suozzi is willing to facilitate such a meeting, if needed

- The Navy suggests the water districts use the results of sentry monitoring wells to gage when such impacts are likely and begin the claims process to obtain a consent judgment through the established process.
- South Farmingdale Water District and Massapequa Water District, can you update us on the status of the use of sentry monitoring wells to obtain a consent judgement?
- Navy, can you update us on the status of future funding if/when the supply of water is impacted by groundwater contamination.
 - Navy Response: "Upon receipt of a claim for funding from a water district, the Department of the Navy will evaluate it on a case-by-case basis and respond appropriately"

Again, thank you for participating in the roundtable. Remediation of the Navy/Grumman Plume is one of my top priorities for the District and I am willing to do whatever is necessary to help move the process along. I look forward to meeting with all of you again as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Congressman Thomas R. Suozzi

Conor Walsh


Legislative Assistant

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